

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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P R 031600Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4621

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0900

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TAGS: PINT IC

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ELECTION: FURTHER REACTION

REF: REYKJAVIK 895

1. PRESS CONTINUES TO FEATURE ANALYSIS AND COMMENT ON JUNE 30 ELECTION RESULTS, BUT LATEST EDITORIALS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF PARTY OFFICIALS STILL AVOID ALL BUT GENERALITIES ON POSSIBLE MAKEUP OF NEW GOVERNMENT.

2. JULY 3 MORGUNBLADID (IP) EDITORIAL SUMS UP FAILURES OF LEFTIST GOVERNMENT, ATTACKING COALITION ESPECIALLY ON ECONOMIC AND DEFENSE MATTERS. FIRST TASK OF NEW GOVT, WHATEVER ITS COMPOSITION, SAYS MORGUNBLADID, MUST BE WITHDRAWAL OF GOI DEFENSE PROPOSALS TO US. IN OTHER OPINION COLUMN, MORGUNBLADID SAYS RELATIVE SHOWING OF IP AND PA SHOWS CLEARLY HOW PEOPLE FEEL ON DEFENSE MATTERS. PAPER UNCLASSIFIED

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ALSO CARRIED BRIEF INTERVIEWS WITH RESIGNING MINISTERS, NONE

OF WHOM WOULD PREDICT MAKEUP OF NEW GOVT, ALTHOUGH FONMIN AGUSTSSON SAID IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO FORM CABINET WITH 30-30 TIE BETWEEN FACTIONS FIN ALTHING. ON RESIGNATION OF THE GOVT EINAR AGUSTSSON SAID: "I'M QUITE PLEASED TO GET A VACATION FROM THE WORK THAT I HAVE BEEN DOING FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS. IT HAS OFTEN BEEN DIFFICULT BUT I AM PLEASED WITH RESULTS THAT WE OBTAINED IN THE FISHERIES DISPUTE. HOWEVER, NO SOLUTION HAS BEEN REACHED IN DEFENSE AFFAIRS WHICH UNDENIABLY CASTS A SHADOW ON MY DEPARTURE."

3. THJODVILJINN (PA) CALLS SUNDAY'S RESULT GESTURE OF SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE FROM WAGE-EARNERS AND ALL LEFTISTS. PAPER ALSO STRESSES THAT IP FELL WELL SHORT OF ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IT HAD SOUGHT. EDITORIAL REPEATS YESTERDAY'S SUGGESTION OF NEED FOR PA AND PP TO RETAIN TIES, CLAIMING THAT ELECTION RESULT WAS EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE IN TWO MAIN GOVERNING PARTIES AND A WARNING TO SDP AND RIGHT-WING PROGRESSIVES. PA CHAIRMAN RAGNAR ARNALDS, IN THJODVILJINN INTERVIEW, ALSO DECLARES PA VICTORY AND REPEATS CLAIM THAT IP ONLY REGAINED SUPPORT LOST EARLIER. LEAST OF ALL, SAID ARNALDS, CAN JUNE 30 VOTE BE SEEN AS MAJORITY SUPPORT FOR IP'S "DEFENDED COUNTRY" POLICY, SINCE THREE PARTIES FAVORING WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES CLEARLY OUTPOLLED IP, THE ONLY PARTY WHICH WANTS IDF IN ICELAND INDEFINITELY. IN OTHER ARTICLE, THJODVILJINN CRITICIZES SDP CHAIRMAN GISLASON FOR PROPOSING IP'S GEIR HALLGRIMSSON AS PRIME MINISTER. ARTICLE POINTS OUT THAT EX-COALITION PARTIES ARE STRONGER THAN IP AND THAT HALLGRIMSSON'S CHOICE NEED NOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED.

4. TIMINN (PP) EDITORIAL IS LARGELY REHASH OF YESTERDAY'S CLAIM THAT PROGRESSIVES DID WELL UNDER ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES COMBINED WITH ATTACK ON THOSE WHO TRIED -- AND FAILED -- TO SPLIT PARTY.
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